

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 20092

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: VISIT OF STAFFDEL CLINE AND ENDRES: WRAP-UP REPORT

REF: BANGKOK 19682

1. SUMMARY: GARNER CLINE, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND ARTHUR P. ENDRES, COUNSEL FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, SPENT FOUR DAYS IN THAILAND LOOKING INTO THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM. STAFFDEL CAME AWAY FROM THE VISIT WITH A CONCERN OVER THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM AND AN INTENTION TO PROPOSE THAT SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOSHUA EILBERG AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER HAMILTON FISH VISIT THAILAND SOMETIME IN THE FALL. END SUMMARY.

2. CLINE AND ENDRES ARRIVED IN BANGKOK ON JULY 6 WITH CODEL MANN. AFTER BRIEFINGS AT THE REFUGEE SECTION THAT AFTERNOON THEY PROCEEDED THE FOLLOWING DAY TO THE KHMER REFUGEE CAMP AT ARANYA-PRATHET. ON SUCCEEDING DAYS THEY VISITED THE LAO/HMONG REFUGEE CAMP AT NONGKHAI, THE DIN DAENG TRANSIT CENTER IN BANGKOK, AND THE VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEE CAMP AT SONGKHLA.

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3. STAFFDEL SEEMED TO DEVUXOP SEVERAL VIEWS DURING THE VISIT;

A: BOTH CLINE AND ENDRES SAID THAT THEY FOUND LAND REFUGEES TO BE MORE QUALIFIED THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED. THEY FOUND THE LAND REFUGEES, INCLUDING THE HMONG, TO BE MORE QUALIFIED THAN THEY EXPECTED.

BM CLINE AND ENDRES WERE ALSO STRUCK BY THE RISKS TAKEN BY

REFUGEES IN ESCAPING FROM CAMBODIA, AND BY THE HEAVY MILITARY PRESSURE BEING USED AGAINST THE HMONG BOTH IN THEIR BASE AREAS AND ALONG ESCAPE ROUTES.

C. STAFFDEL IS AWARE THAT NUMBERS FOR BOAT REFUGEES WILL BE DEPLETED FAIRLY RAPIDLY IF PRESENT ESCAPE RATES PERSIST. THEY HAD GOOD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOAT REFUGEES THEY MET, PARTICULARLY THOSE THEY MET DURING THEIR VISIT TO PULAU BESAR IN MALAYSIA.

D. STAFFDEL EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CRAMPED AND CROWDED CONDITIONS AT THE DIN DAENG TRANSIT CENTER.

4. STAFFDEL INDICATED THAT THEY HOPED THE SUBCOMMITTEE CAN PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM.

CLINE AND ENDRES INDICATED THAT THEY WILL STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EILBERG AND FISH VISIT THAILAND AND POSSIBLY MALAYSIA IN THE FALL, PROBABLY AFTER THE ELECTION. ODOHUE

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